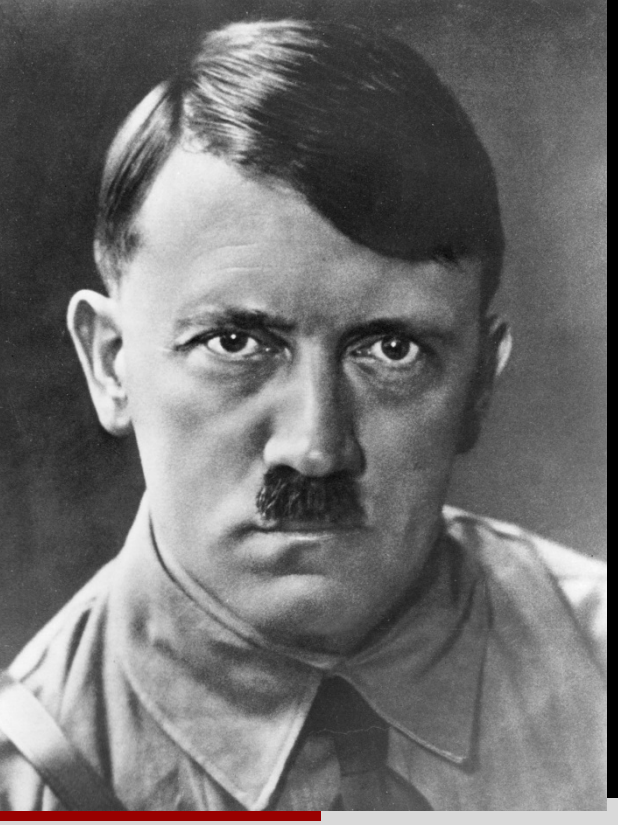
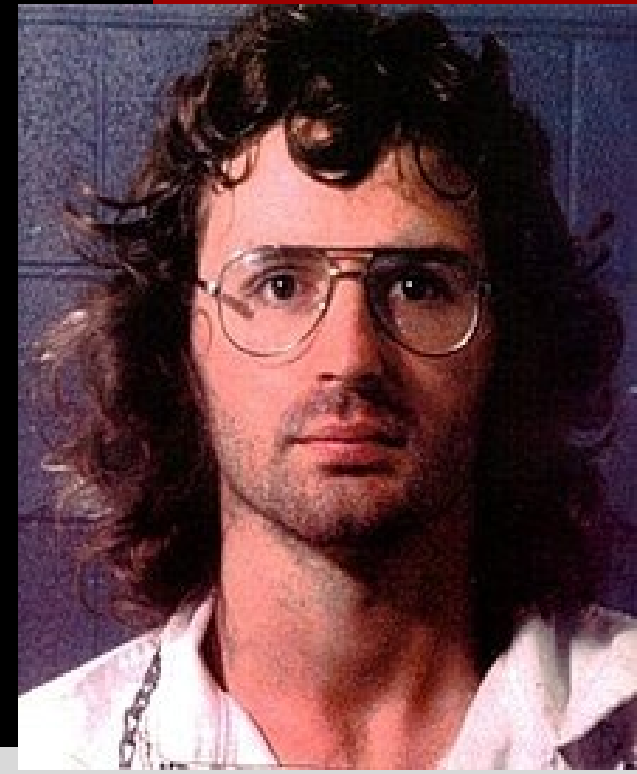


# Transformational Leaders: Addictive Personalities Leads to Mass



## Casualties.

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### Introduction

“The road to hell is paved with good intentions.” -Henry G. Bohn (Bohn & Ray, 1889)

Mother Teresa, Mahatma Gandhi, Adolf Hitler, Jim Jones, and David Koresh all have something in common. They are transformational leaders that drew people in and made an impact in their lives. Sadly, most of these leaders mentioned took a darker turn and ruined lives. How is it that these people have the charm and charisma to change the viewpoint of many, what commonalties do these people have that may be used to identify how some inspiring leaders become dark and twisted which leads to ruin and decay?

What is a transformational leader?

“Transformational leadership is a leadership style that can inspire positive changes in those who follow. Transformational leaders are generally energetic, enthusiastic, and passionate. Not only are these leaders concerned and involved in the process; they are also focused on helping every member of the group succeed as well.” (Cherry, 2020)

Even the kindest and one of the most famous of transformational leaders, Mother Teresa was known to have dark and dirty secrets. Whether it is the thrill of power or something else entirely some charismatic and inspiring people are like that of Snow Whites apple, bright and shiny on the outside but poisonous underneath.

### Before Being The “Chosen” One.

**Jim Jones-** 1931-1978 From an early age, the leader of the Peoples Temple wanted to be a preacher and a representation of God, not only that but during a time of segregation he preached equality. Jones grew up rather poor in Indiana and was said to bounce from one thing to the next before finding his calling. He grew up with a wild and erratic mother and a war ruined father who ignored him. Leaving Jones feeling rather alone. (Singular, 2020)

**David Koresh-** 1959- 1993 Koresh, was born to a 14-year-old single mother in 1959. In his teenage years he became a seeker of Christ and looking for the next big thing. Very different from the rest he was musically talented, kind, and always smiling. What made him stand out more was that he could also take apart and rebuild both cars and guns. The Branch Davidians leader was also very good at memorizing and quoting scripture in a way that captured the attention to many and drew them to him. (Singular, 2020)

**Adolf Hitler-** 1889 – 1945 Growing up he was abused by his father, but much loved by his mother. He was known to be very smart and polite and very charismatic. He achieved high marks in grade school, but later started doing poorly in his other schooling.. He lost most of his family at a young age which was said to have affected him greatly according to historians (What Is Known About Adolf Hitler's Childhood? 2014.)

**Charles Manson-** 1934-2017 Born to an unwed teenage mother, Manson from a young age was good at spinning stories that seemed believable. Bounced from one home to the next, he dealt with abuse from uncles and religion was pushed on him when he was very young. Due to some troubling years, Manson spent much of his youth in and out of the juvenile prison system. (Singular, 2020)

### Don't Drink the Kool-Aid

As Geoffrey Chaucer once said, “all good things must come to an end.” and so too did the original good intentions that these leaders set forth to accomplish. Most cults have ended in bloodshed and violence and those listed are but a few instances throughout time. All because these men were able to inspire many to their ideology

Adolf Hitler- started the Holocaust movement, which centered on destroying anyone not of German/ Aryan heritage. This led to the loss of over 6 million Jewish people as well as hundreds of thousands of others.

Jim Jones- had his followers' practice what he called White Knight drills; they were essentially suicide practice. When the Peoples Temple came under scrutiny those drills were bought to life. 909 people willingly and unwillingly committed suicide by drinking a special Kool-Aid filled with poison and drugs or being shot for noncompliance. (Singular, 2020)

David Koresh- Famous for the standoff at Waco, he refused to give up his beliefs o release all the children that were being held hostage. He had other Branch Davidian members start fires in their compound to end the standoff. This led to the death of 76 cult members, 25 being children, many others involved in the altercation were injured. Koresh was also believed to act as a husband to many underage girls who he deemed worthy of siring his “special lineage.” (Singular, 2020)

Charles Manson- while he wasn't physically at the murders, he encouraged the brutal death of actress Sharon Tate, her unborn child, and many others all to try and start a race war. His followers loved him so much they wanted to do this to please him.

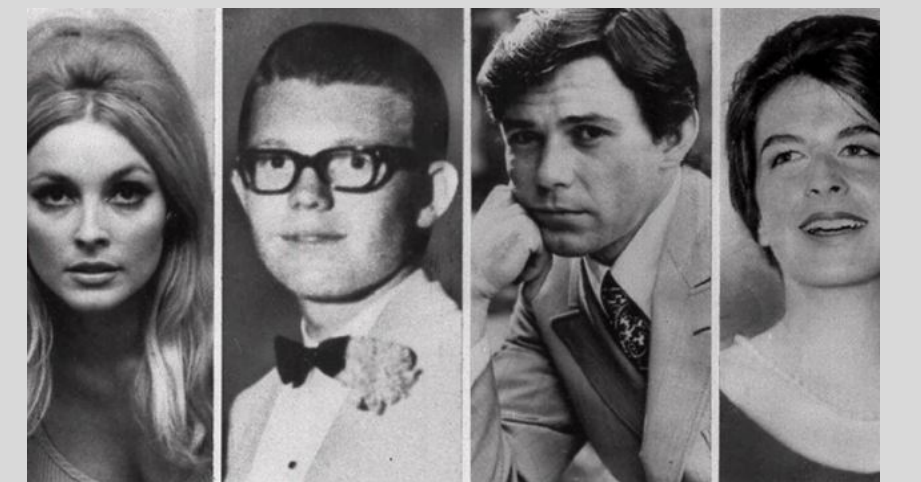
Keith Raniere- started a following of self-help groups, that included many celebrities, called NXIVM. The organization led to the rape and slavery of hundreds of women whom he branded with his initials as part of his healing process for their past problems. (Singular, 2020)



The Jonestown Massacre November 18, 1978. 909 people were murdered and or committed suicide thanks to Jim Jones famous poisoned Kool-Aid. Only 33 people survived the Jonestown Massacre, of the deaths a third were children who were “put to sleep” first. (A&E, 2010.)

### Commonalties

While this presentation only mentions a few specific people there have been many cult leaders throughout history, some as recent as 2018 with NXIVM. Most of these visionary “leaders” had several things in common. From an early age they all displayed a charismatic nature and a way with words that turned even the most mundane topics into exciting stories. They grew up with absent or abusive fathers and very young mothers. These people were all very intelligent and creative in some way even if they didn't finish or do well in school. They may not have fit in to social norms but turned to religion as a way of seeking comfort and gathering followers as replacement families. Most importantly they all had a way of drawing people in, no matter the age of the devotee. They captured the attention and hearts of many and were able to read them in a way that allowed them to bend others to their will and achieve their personal goals. The sad truth is even if the followers didn't agree they would still act out all commands for the love of their “Savior”.



### Conclusions

Whether or not these men started with good intentions the result was the same. They let power overcome all senses and wanted to be worshipped like Gods. The saddest thing of all is others suffered thanks to these ‘Leaders’, they made their followers believe that they were good people with inspiring ideas. They filled the heads of many with hopes and dreams that in the end some people were murdered, hurt, raped, abused, or committed suicide for.

With what we know about transformational leaders when they start gathering a huge following then it may be time to take a closer look. Make sure that the good intentions stay good and that lives don't end in tragedy.

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